



Dearest sisters,

At 9:00 a.m. today, the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, in the community of Mumbai (India) the Divine called to the fullness of life, our sister:

**D'MELLO GLORIA SR. TECLA**  
**born in Bulsar (Mumbai, India) on December 9, 1930**

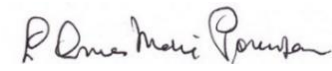
“Jesus, my Master, has become the center of my consecrated life and mission. Fr. Alberione’s *slogan*: *Live Christ and Give Christ* attracted me from the very beginning of Pauline life and has remained alive and active to this day...” Sr. Thecla’s words, her testimony offered at the 2010 International Formation Seminar, colors and gives meaning to this sister’s entire existence. She lived the Pauline life in kindness and peace, in the serenity of a deeply unified life that has contributed to the life of the Indian province in progressive charismatic and apostolic growth.

She entered the congregation in the community of Mumbai on December 8, 1954, after graduating from high school. During initial formation she mainly engaged in itinerant outreach before going to Rome for her novitiate, where she also made her first profession, on June 30, 1958. With a rich educational and linguistic background, Sr. Thecla returned to Mumbai to continue spreading the Gospel from school to school, office to office, home to home. Soon, because of her wisdom, vocational maturity, and ability to listen, she was called to the service of authority. She was a provincial councilor for spirituality and formation for four mandates, once also serving as provincial vicar. She was the beloved local superior of the Calcutta community for a six-year term. She served the people of Secunderabad and Panjim (Goa) with a great ecumenical and universal spirit. She directed the book bindery in Mumbai and proved to be an excellent organizer.

Sr. Thecla was a wise formator, guiding aspirants and groups of juniors during their time of preparation for perpetual profession. Her love for Fr. Alberione and M. Thecla was truly proverbial. She cherished their teachings, and sought to imitate their way of life, especially their intimate relationship with the Divine Master. She confided to the Pauline women formators gathered in Rome, “In moments of crisis of all kinds, confusion and doubt, the questions: ‘Thecla, where are you? Where are your mind and heart?’ have helped me to renew my fervor, to rectify my motivations, to return to where I need to be, where I belong. Even in the dark moments of my life, Jesus was mysteriously close to me and with his guiding hand, helped me to make right choices.”

She spoke Italian well and was happy to assist as a translator. In this capacity she joyfully and discreetly accompanied the sisters of the general government on their visits to the communities, happy to have the opportunity and to see the faces of so many beloved sisters.

Sr. Thecla spent her final fifteen years in Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Mangalore, and finally in Mumbai. Even though her health was declining but she was not discouraged. With her usual serenity she wrote, “I lay everything at my Master’s feet. Although I am not involved directly in the apostolate, I feel united with the sisters who are working on the front lines in the apostolate not only in my country but all over the world.” Until the end, Sr Thecla remained serene and quietly edified those who visited her. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on the day the local Church in India celebrates Thanksgiving Day. Her life, offered as a fragrant sacrifice, has become today a most beautiful hymn of thanksgiving and praise to the Father for the great works He accomplishes in those who have the courage to fully entrust themselves to Him. Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, October 6, 2024